Elasticity Modifiers

Objective:	To impart visco-elastic properties to floating oil, thereby increasing skimming rates.
Description:	The product is applied as a liquid, slurry, or solid onto the oil. Some mixing is required and is usually provided by the water spray during application. Treated oil is gelatinous, or semi-solid, but still fluid; there is no chemical change in the oil. The primary purpose is to increase skimmer efficiency removal rates while minimizing water recovery amounts. Increases the efficiency of some skimmers, but may clog other skimmers and pumps.
Applicable Habitat Types:	On all water environments where oil can be contained for skimming. Not for use near wetlands nor debris because of increased adhesive properties of the treated oil.
When to Use:	When skimmer efficiency is low. Must be used with booming or other physical containment. Not for use on heavy oils, which are already highly viscous.
Biological Constraints:	Not suitable for vegetated shores nor where extensive debris is mixed in the oil. Should be avoided when birds or other wildlife cannot be kept away from the treated oil.
Environmental Effects:	May increase the smothering effect of oil on organisms; therefore, the treatment should be considered only where recovery of the treated oil is likely.
Waste Generation:	If skimming efficiency is increased, will reduce the volume of water in oil/water collections. Effects on recycling of oil treated with elasticity modifiers is unknown.